Rohypnol

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Learning Objectives

- Identify from a list the chemical name for Rohypnol and the family of drugs it belongs to.
- Recognize the ways that Rohypnol can effect the human body.

What is Rohypnol?

- Rohypnol (chemical name – fluritzrazepam) is a sedative that is more than ten times as strong as Valium.
- Rohypnol belongs to the benzodiazepines family
- Rohypnol is known as a "Date Rape Drug" due to its association with sexual assaults.

What is Rohypnol?

- **Rohypnol is produced and marketed by Roche Pharmaceuticals Inc., a Swiss based Health Care Company.**

- **Rohypnol is available as a small, white tablet in 1 mg, or 2 mg doses with Roche inscribed into the pill.**

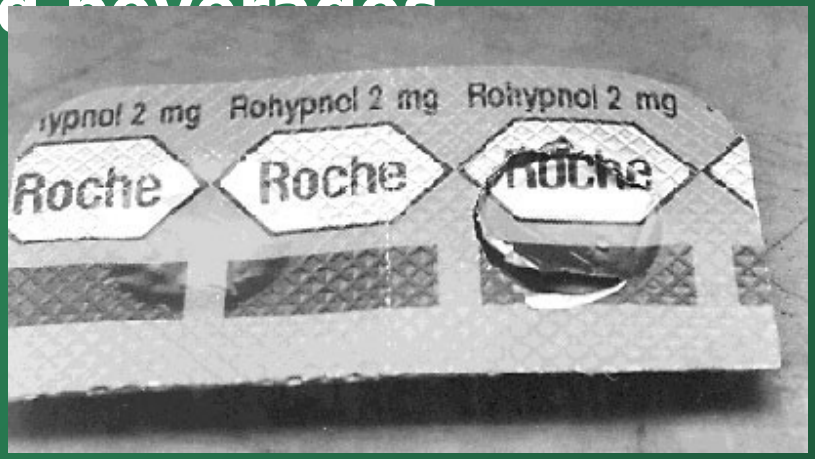
- **The consumption, possession and/or distribution of Rohypnol in the United States is illegal**

Rohypnol tablets are white and are single- or cross-scored on one side with "ROCHE" and "1" or "2" encircled on the other.

What is Rohypnol?

Because Rohypnol is odorless, colorless, and tasteless when dissolved in alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages, LaRoche has begun to add additional properties to the pill. These properties within the pill:

- **Cause light colored drinks to turn blue.**
- **Dissolve slowly and form small chunks in dark colored beverages**



How is Rohypnol Consumed?

- Rohypnol is almost always ingested orally in either the pill form or dissolved in a beverage.
- Rohypnol, in its powder form, can also be snorted.
- The effects of Rohypnol can be felt 15-30 minutes after ingestion.
- The effects of the drug can be felt for up to 35 hours after ingestion.

Rohypnol – General Information

- Rohypnol is sometimes used as an “alcohol extender” in combination with beer and other alcoholic beverages.
- Poly-drug users sometimes ingest Rohypnol to enhance low-quality heroin or to counteract the effects of a cocaine binge.
- Long time Rohypnol users may develop a tolerance for the drug, which could lead to physical dependence and severe withdrawal symptoms.

Effects of Rohypnol

- Disinhibition
- Slurred Speech
- Muscle Relaxation
- Aggressive Behavior
- Fearlessness
- Disorientation
- Amnesia

Though typically white in color, flunitrazepam pills recently seized in Egypt were of a brownish-pink tint, indicating a counterfeit product.

- Impaired Judgment
- Respiratory Distress
- Loss of Motor Skills
- Blackouts (can last 8-24 hours)
- Dizziness/Nausea
- Overdose
- Death

Rohypnol Testing in the Army

- Rohypnol is extremely difficult to detect more than 4 hours after ingestion.
- A division of Hoffman-LaRoche has developed a special program to assist medical and law enforcement personnel to test for the presence of Rohypnol in the blood and urine specimen from rape victims.
- The Army does not test for Rohypnol on a regular basis.

Additional Information

Additional information on Rohypnol or any other drugs can be found by contacting the Army Substance Abuse Program or by visiting http://www.acsap.army.mil.